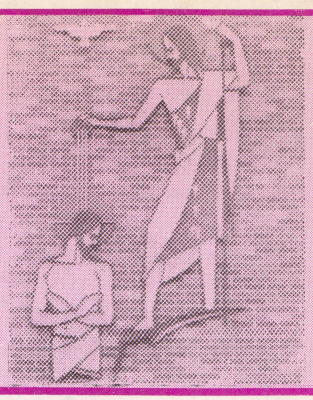
Ypsilanti Catholic

Published Weekly in the Interest of Saint John the Baptist Parish

December 2, 1979



Advent -- A Call to Action

Sister Marilyn

We really have no choice!!!! The call is to meet the needs of the poor, to respond to the oppressed, to witness Christianity to all and especially to the downtrodden, the neglected, to those who are the cast-outs.

Today we begin a new Church Year.

Today we begin a four week preparation for Christmas.

Today we invite you to enter into our Advent theme for 1979.

Where did this theme originate? It orginated from the 4 Sundays of Advent gospel readings.

What is this theme? It is twofold: a call to Justice and to Action.

How does this fit into the life of a Christian? Several sources including Vatican II and the Synod of Bishops in 1971 have declared:

"The mission of preaching the Gospel dictates at the present time that we should dedicate ourselves to the liberation of man even in his present existence in this world. For unless the Christian message of love and justice shows its effectiveness through action in the cause of justice in the world, it will only with difficulty gain credibility with the people of our times."

What does this mean for me/us at St. John's?

It could mean that we as the community of St. John's could respond as such to some of the literally hundreds of needs within this area of Ypsilanti. It could mean that if we cannot respond personally to address a particular need, we can offer our time, help, or presence to those of our parish who can and will respond. Even offering to deliver a basket or gift, to go shopping with your neighbor to buy a present helps us all to respond to the need.

Today you heard Fr. Ed, Fr. Dave and John Getz speak to you of the responsibility and concerns in this area. **There are so many. What do I do this week????**

Take today's readings:
Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Pray with them, meditate and reflect on them and talk to others about them. Give careful consideration to the Lord speaking in your prayer, to the words you heard today and come next Sunday to our community celebration with an **open heart.**

The following questions may be of help as you pray this week.

Are we giving out of our need to give? Or, are we able to respond to a real need? Is it necessary to know something about the person in order to give them a meaningful gift?

Can we only meet the material needs of the people we are reaching out to?

How is our gift giving and our caring different from that of other groups? Is there something about it which makes it Christian?

How are the people being gifted spending Christmas day? Can we in anyway help them to make it a special day?

Is our group able to invite strangers in for Christmas? Only a group which is secure enough in its traditions and has a history of good Christmases might want to reach out in this way. Groups which are less secure may wish to consider this a future possibility.

What will happen to these people after the season? Will they feel like they were someone's project?

"Limiting the number of Christmas gifts - even to one toy from both parents - is telling a child not only that he can't have everything but also that you can't give everything. ... In the end there is only one gift to our children, to be given at Christmas, Chanuka, on the way to Mecca, or whenever: the treasures of our time and talk, exactly what children want most."

Colman McCarthy
The Washington Post
December 2, 1973

"Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only gift is a portion of thyself ... Therefore the poet brings a poem, the shepherd a lamb ..."

Emerson

"The Legend of Christmas gifts suggests that they were originally rate things, tokens of love and respect. Something precious is sacrificed when these qualities are forgotten."

Betty Nickerson
Celebrate the Sun

Immaculate Conception of Mary

Holy Day Mass Schedule

Friday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. (Vigil)

Saturday, December 8, 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12:00 noon

Evening Prayer

On Sunday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. we will pray solemn Vespers here in the church. Vespers is one of the oldest forms of liturgical prayer in the Church and many of our parishioners in the past have come to pray, reflect and spend a little time with the Lord. During this busy season of Advent this may be an opportunity to create some space for yourself with the Lord.

Attention!!! Lectors of the Word

By now you should have received the new schedule for Lectors for December, January and February. Please review it carefully.

As you know the 5-week workshop for Lectors ended November 5th and the Worship Commission in their last meeting spent some time in an evaluation of these sessions. Those Lectors who participated in the workshop have been placed on the new schedule. Although we tried several methods of getting in touch with you a very small number of Lectors who signed Time and Talent did not come to the workshop sessions or contact us. For this reason you were not placed on the new three month schedule. If you would like to be reassigned for the March schedule please call me or Penny Hines, 485-3112. We can and would be happy to provide some workable alternatives.

Sister Marilyn

Ushers' Meeting

There will be a meeting of the ushers on Sunday, December 9, in the Library of the Center at 4:00 p.m.

New Life in Christ

Melissa Marie Meier, daughter of Wayne C. and Debra (Spino) Meier, 3665 Cloverlawn, received the life of Jesus through the Sacrament of Baptism administered by Father Doepker on Saturday, November 24, 1979. Melissa's sponsors in the faith are Milbert Meier and Debra Meier.

Welcome to the community of faith, Melissa! Congratulations, Wayne and Debby!

In the Peace of Christ

Your prayers are requested for the souls and the families of four people who have been recently buried from St. John's.

Douglas M. Smith, died Sunday, November 18, 1979, at Beyer Hospital at the age of 46, after an illness of several years. Mass of the Christian Burial was offered by Father Doepker on Wednesday, November 21, in our church. Burial followed at United Memorial Gardens.

Survivors include his wife, Gwendolyn; his mother, Lucille Evans; maternal grandmother, Mary Morris; two daughters, Desi Harris and Lisa Smith; one son, Douglas Smith; and a brother, Robert Evans.

Mrs. Mary L. O'Brien, age 88, a long time parishioner of St. John's, died Wednesday, November 21, 1979, in Garden City. Mass of the Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Doepker on Saturday, November 24, in our church. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery.

Mrs. O'Brien was preceded in death by her husband, John, in 1945. She is survived by two nephews, Dr. Timothy Dyer of Westland and Peter L. Dyer of Ann Arbor and one niece, Mrs. John (Mary) McCormick of Wayne.

John Marchesotti, died Friday, November 23, 1979, in Westland. He was 81. Mass of the Christian Burial was celebrated at our church by Father Doepker on Monday, November 26. Burial followed in St. John's Cemetery.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Olive, in June of this year. His survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Charles (Gloria) Frank of Westland; two brothers, Carl and Frank; and a niece and nephew.

Alberta Carr, age 56, died on Friday, November 23, 1979, in Ann Arbor after a long illness. Mass of the Christian Burial was offered in our church on Tuesday, November 27, by Father Doepker. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery.

Mrs. Carr is survived by her husband, Edward, daughter Judy and grandson Stephen.

May all those who have died in Christ find joy and peace in his risen glory.

Parish Nuptials

James and Michelle Beining

James E. Beining of Ypsilanti and Michelle A. Schaffrath of Wayne were joined in the covenant of marriage during a Nuptial Mass celebrated by Father Doepker on Friday evening, November 23, 1979.

James is the son of Walter and Marjorie (Hotz) Beining. Michelle's parents are Richard and Patricia (McAllister) Schaffrath.

Principle witnesses for the ceremony were Thomas Beining and Deborah Robinson. The lector for the Mass was Jill Beining. Music was provided by Amy Burke, organist and Donna Beining, soloist.

Congratulations, Jim and Michelle! May the Lord fill you with his blessings.

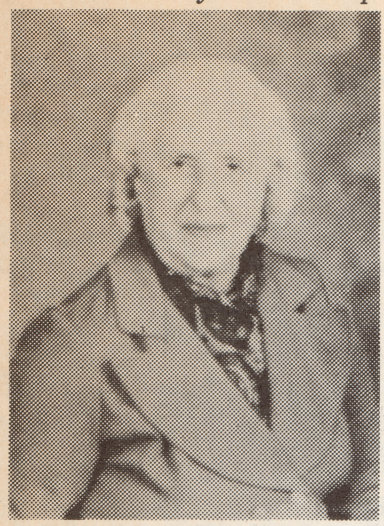
Paper Drive

The Bus Committee of the Washtenaw Area Catholic Board of Education is sponsoring a newspaper drive on Saturday, December 8, from 10:00-6:00 and Sunday, December 9, from 10:00-2:00. Papers may be delivered during those hours to the school bus which will be parked on our lot.

The Boy Scouts will also be having a paper drive early in 1980, so continue to save them after you give your old ones to the Bus Committee.

Now and Then ...

by Father Doepker



Miss Marie Stachlewitz
Happy Birthday, Marie

Marie Stachlewitz, mainstay of our parish for over 58 years as organist, bookkeeper, secretary, cook, jack-of-many-trades, and above all else, a dedicated Christian woman, celebrated her birthday on November 30.

Although many people shoot for "30 years and out" nowadays, Marie has no plans for retiring from St. John's, and we, for our part, are happy to have her here.

God bless you, Marie, and Happy Birthday!
(P.S. For those who are curious, Marie is over 25, by her own admission!)

Intercessory Prayer

The only hope of the believer is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you Lord Jesus for calling us to be your people. We thank you and praise you for you indeed are our savior. We are confident and unafraid. Our strength and our courage is the Lord. With joy we will draw water at the fountain of salvation and say on that day. Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name. Among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name. Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement, let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O people of St. John's for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Today Lord, is a new beginning, a new day, a new year, a time of renewed commitment.

Lord, we pray for our parish team. Pour your Spirit upon them that they may boldly speak your word to your people. Give them that zeal to teach us to love and worship in unity and in holiness as brothers and sisters. Do it Lord for your honor and glory.

We pray for our many sick brothers and sisters, for the elderly and shut-ins, for the rejected. Lord, only you, the Prince of Peace can bring joy and peace to the sick and to those in pain. Fill their lives with your presence. Bring them closer to you Lord. Glory to God.

We pray for our time of preparation for the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. Let us prepare to meet him face to face. Let us seek him daily for God's gift to us in his Son Jesus. Make it a holy season. Bring families together. Unite broken homes. Please, Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our government officials. May they truly seek you and do your will as they guide our nation through hard times. For with you Lord nothing is impossible. Be with our 49 brothers and sisters in Iran. We pray that through this trial of suffering and uncertainty they may come closer to you. Bless and protect them, Lord.

We pray for our needs. Thank you Jesus for loving us. We look to your coming.

The powers in the heavens will be shaken. After that, men will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand erect and hold your heads high for your deliverance is near at hand.

May the grace and peace of the living Lord be upon all of us until he comes in glory.

Praise the name of Jesus
David Rocha

Parish Retreat for Young Adults December 7-8-9

St. John's Parish will offer a three-day retreat for young adults in high school from December 7 through 9 at the Franklin Settlement Camp in Lake Orion.

A retreat is filled with many things, but essentially it's a time to reflect on our relationships with self, God and others. This is done in an atmosphere of warmts and acceptance, in a spirit of faith and friendship. A weekend includes times for talks, activities, thinking, discussing, praying and celebrating the liturgy.

The adult leaders of the retreat have and are being prepared through the Youth Ministry Training Program offered by the parish. The parish youth minister will rector the weekend, and Fr. Ed will be the celebrant at Saturday evening Eucharist.

The camp is an hour-and-twenty minute drive from here and is located in Lake Orion woods overlooking a lake. There are segregated sleeping quarters, a spacious lodge with fireplace and lots of forested land for private meditation.

To partly cover the cost of the weekend, we are asking students who are registered in the parish religious education program to pay $5. Their $20 fee will be used to help defray costs. Non-registered students are asked to pay $25. However, this retreat is open to any parish youth, and no one will ever be turned away for lack of funds. As a parish faith community, each gives according to ability.

The registration Materials are available in the Religious Education Center. Youth and parents with further questions are asked to phone John Cameron at the Center, 483-6378.

Family Planning Meeting

There will be an introductory class of Dr. Billing's Ovulation Method of Family Planning at St. John's Education Center on December 12, at 7:30 p.m. This class includes materials, individual sessions and follow-up meetings. There will be a $15 fee but for those unable to pay, arrangements may be made. For pre-registration and more information please call Nancy DeVooght at 487-9137.

Thank You

The Service Commission would like to thank all of you who assisted in providing the funeral dinner for John Marchesotti. Your dishes can be picked up in Harvey Hall.

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 2
9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Baby-sitting
9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Donuts, Harvey Hall
11:00 a.m. Preschool Religious Instruction

Monday, December 3
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Center, Room 10 & 11

Tuesday, December 4
Bulletin goes to press
4:00 -5:15 p.m. Grade 1-6 Religious Instruction
7:00 -8:15 p.m. Grade 7-8 Religious Instruction
7:00 p.m. Marian Devotions (Rosary & Novena), Church
7:30 p.m. Liturgy Planning, Rectory
7:30 -9:30 p.m. Catechumenate, Center Library

Wednesday, December 5
4:30 -5:45 p.m. Grade 1-6 Religious Instruction
6:30 p.m. Bingo, Harvey Hall
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Loft

Thursday, December 6
1:00 p.m. Team Meeting, Rectory
8:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting, Activity Center
7:00 -9:15 p.m. Training Program for Youth Ministerial Skills, Center Library

Friday, December 7
7:30 p.m. Baptism Class, Center Library

Saturday, December 8
3:30 -4:30 p.m. Confessions heard

Special Invitations

** 15th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing, an unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous oratorio, will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 9, 2:00 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. Vocal and instrumental scores will be furnished by the University Musical Society. Musicians only must register by card or letter by December 2, to Hoyt at 1410 Las Vegas, Ann Arbor 48103. There is no charge for the Sing, but all participants are asked to make a small donation as well as bring baked goods for the intermission refreshment period.

** Young Adults Group ... will meet at 5:45 p.m. in the parking lot of St. Francis of Assisi Church, on East Stadium in Ann Arbor, today, December 2nd. We will be going to dinner at St. Mary's Student Chapel at 6:00 p.m. followed by bowling at the Ypsi-Arbor Lanes. New members are welcome to join us. Contact Sharon Emmerth at 769-2550.

** **Gabriel Richard Green & White Ball** - Get your dancing shoes ready and plan now with your neighbors and friends to attend the Gabriel Richard High School Benefit Dinner Dance. **Date** - Friday, December 14, 1979. **Place** - Barton Hills Country Club. **Time** - Cocktails at 7:00 p.m. Dinner at 8:00 p.m. **Price** - $110.00 per couple (tax deductible). Please join us for a wonderful holiday party for a very worthy cause - your kids and Catholic education. For additional details, contact the Co-chairmen: Mary Margaret Kelly - 231-2348; Jack Foley - 429-9610.

Can You Help?

A baby sitter is needed during the Scripture class to be held Wednesday mornings, 10:00-11:30, December 5, 12, 19. If you can help, please call John Cameron, 483-6378.

Adult Enrichment for Advent and Christmas

"The Infancy of Christ in the Gospels: Fact, Fiction or Theology?"

Christmas time fills us with many fascinating popular and pious visions of the child Jesus of Nazareth.

But what do the gospels of Matthew and Luke actually report and what do they try to tell us? Why is Paul, the earliest Christian writer totally silent about the issue? Why do the gospels of Mark and John totally ignore the early life of Jesus?

Was there really a star which Wise Men followed? Did Jesus lie in a manger among the animals of the field as shepherds watched?

You can help to fill your Advent and Christmas with something better than advertising, buying and busy-ness. Take a pause with the Scriptures to grow spiritually during the time of the birth of the Savior.

St. John's Parish Community will offer three sessions for adult enrichment on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings during December. John Cameron will present these:

Mondays of December 3, 10 and 17, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Library, and repeat them on:

Wednesdays of December 5, 12 and 19, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Room 8, of the Center.

No pre-registration is necessary, and about 5 hours toward catechetical certification is offered.

Anniversary Sunday

St. John's Parish Community would like to honor those members of our parish who are celebrating their 25th, 40th or 50th Wedding Anniversary. We are planning to hold a Mass in their honor followed by a reception on January 19th. If you are going to be celebrating one of those special anniversaries during 1980, please let Sister Paula (483-3360) or Natalie Bowyer (482-4742) know so that we can begin planning.

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 3 -
St. Francis Xavier, priest
7:00 a.m. Jennie Hasbrouck, req. by her sister Ida Vivian

Tuesday, December 4 -
Advent Weekday/St. John Damascene
7:00 a.m. George Henlein, req. by Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Husse

Wednesday, December 5 -
Advent Weekday/St. Nicholas
7:00 a.m. Leonard S. Gronic, req. by his parents

Thursday, December 6 -
Advent Weekday/St. Nicholas
7:00 a.m. Olive Marchesotti, req. by Mrs. Alda Guidabona

First Friday, December 7 -
St. Ambrose, bishop-doctor
7:00 a.m. Otto Kress, req. by Coreen and Herman Brower
7:00 p.m. George T. Lund, req. by Jill Eberts

First Saturday, December 8 -
Immaculate Conception of Mary
7:00 a.m. People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. Robert Seabolt, Sr., req. by Mr. & Mrs. John Stewart
12:00 noon Martin P. O'Hara III, req. by the Krips Family
5:00 p.m. Dr. Albert Milford, req. by Mrs. Milford

Sunday, December 9 -
Second Sunday of Advent
7:00 a.m. People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. Virginia Hughes, req. by the Gillman Family
11:00 a.m. Special Intention
12:30 p.m. Intention of Cynthia Sattler, req. by George and Vivian Rominski

Wedding Banns

II Paul E. Carroll III and Cheryl Ann Najarian

Financial Barometer

November 25, 1979
Offertory Collection..... $3,602.51

July-November (Sunday & Holydays)
Budgeted..... $93,082.00
Actual Collections 88,171.00
Amount behind ..... $ 4,911.00
Missions (addt'l) 6.00

Campaign for Human Development
(addt'l) 408.00

Heritage Fund
Memory of Virginia Hughes . 75.00
Memory of Gretchen Borst . . 10.00

Religious Instruction
(opt. env.)..... 102.00

Readings for December 2 - December 8

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16, 1 Thes 3:12-4:2, Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday: Is 2:1-5, Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10, Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10, Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6, Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24, Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20, Eph 1:3-6, 11-12, Lk 1:26-38

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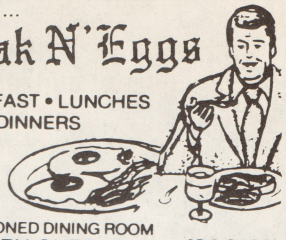
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ST. JOHN'S ADVENT PROGRAM 1979

The design of this year's Advent Program is a Call to Action in terms of Justice. The goal of the program is to enable the parishoners of St. John's Parish to become more aware of what the needs are in our community and to bring St. John's together as a Community responding in a visible and authentic way to the needs of others and to the needs of ourselves.

FIRST WEEK (December 1-8)

Parishoners are asked to pray and reflect over the Gospel message of Justice in light of your increased awareness of needs keeping in mind that we give out of need, not our abundance.

SECOND WEEK (December 8-15)

Parishoners are to decide if you are able to respond to a concrete need and if you are then:

a. take an unpainted ornament from the tree
b. decide how much financial assistance you can offer to meet a need
c. phone Sister Marilyn or Sister Paula at the Rectory to receive the name and the need of the person involved (483-3360)

THIRD AND FOURTH WEEK (December 15-22)

During these two weeks you are asked to:

a. purchase the gift
b. contact the person whose need you have met
c. deliver the gift to the person
d. paint the wooden ornament
e. bring the painted ornament back to Church and place it on the tree to symbolize that you have met the need